

Message

**From:** ECOS [ecos=ecos.org@mail71.atl31.mcdlv.net]  
on behalf of ECOS [ecos@ecos.org]  
**Sent:** 5/25/2018 4:57:50 PM  
**To:** Jackson, Ryan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group  
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=38bc8e18791a47d88a279db2fec8bd60-Jackson, Ry]  
**Subject:** [SPAM-Sender] U.S. EPA Holds Summit on PFAS, Comment Period for Science Transparency Rule  
Extended, & More News

ECOSWIRE | Vol. 20 No. 21

[View this email in your browser](#)



## ECOSWIRE

Friday, May 25, 2018

Vol. 20 No. 21

# Table of Contents

- [U.S. EPA Holds National Leadership Summit on PFAS](#)
  - [Comment Period for Science Transparency Rule Extended](#)
  - [Register Now for ECOS Silver Anniversary Fall Meeting in Vermont](#)
  - [Reminder: ECOS Asks States to Submit an Innovation Videos by July 12](#)
  - [ERIS, ORD Meet to Continue Cooperative Federalism Work](#)
  - [Check Out Last Week's Most-Read ECOSWIRE Story](#)
  - [State News You Can Use](#)
  - [ITRC](#)
  - [Career Opportunities](#)
  - [Upcoming Events](#)
- 

## U.S. EPA Holds National Leadership Summit on PFAS

U.S. EPA convened its Per- and Poly-fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) [National Leadership Summit](#) this week in Washington, DC. The Summit brought together over 200 representatives from 40 states, tribes, and territories, 20 federal agencies, Congressional offices, state associations, industry groups, and non-governmental organizations to share information about efforts to identify and characterize PFAS, brainstorm near-term actions to mitigate its challenges, and discuss risk communication strategies to address public concerns of contamination.

The first day of the Summit, open to all participants, specifically brought to light the importance of finding near-term solutions in the absence of a federally-enforceable standard for PFAS analytes such as PFOA and PFOS. Highlights included presentations

from ECOS members Craig Butler (OH) and Heidi Grether (MI), as well as an address from EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, who outlined the agency's four-step action plan. The plan is:

- To evaluate the need for a maximum contaminant level for PFOA and PFOS by working through regulatory determinations of the Safe Drinking Water Act;
- To explore the designation of PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA);
- To develop groundwater and contaminated site cleanup goals for PFOA and PFOS; and
- To generate toxicity values for GenX and PFBS.

The second day of the Summit was open only to state and federal participants. In small group dialogue, state and federal partners discussed how they can collaborate to address some identified including standards, methodologies, and risk communication.

This summer, EPA will travel to states and tribal lands with communities impacted by PFAS to hear directly from the public on how the agency can help states and local officials address this issue. EPA plans to use information from the Summit, community engagements, and [public comment](#) to develop a PFAS Management Plan that will be released later this year.

ECOS will distribute to states detailed notes of the Summit, and will keep states informed of its efforts to address concerns of PFAS. [Longworth]

## **Comment Period for Science Transparency Rule Extended**

### ***Public Hearing Scheduled***

Thursday, U.S. EPA announced the extension to **August 17, 2018** of the comment period for the proposed rule, "[Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science](#)". When the

proposed rule was initially announced, comments were due by May 30, 2018. Comments should be submitted to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) under [Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OA-2018-0259](#).

EPA will hold a public hearing on the proposed rule on **July 17, 2018** in Washington, DC. The hearing will allow interested parties to present data, views, and arguments regarding the proposal. To provide oral testimony at the hearing, register by **July 15** [here](#). [Hanson]

## **Register Now for ECOS Silver Anniversary Fall Meeting in Vermont**

Registration is open for the August 27-30 Silver Anniversary Fall Meeting in Stowe, Vermont. With a theme of *25 Years of Progress*, the meeting will be keynoted by ECOS Founding Executive Director Robbie Roberts and current Executive Director Sam Sankar, Vermont Governor Phil Scott, and Green Mountain Power President & CEO Mary Powell.

The gathering will showcase an array of environmental successes and lessons learned over the past quarter century. Planned roundtables are: *Earth, Sea, and Sky – Taking Stock of 25 Years of Progress*; *Greening Our States to Bring in the Green – Environmental Improvement as a Driver of Economic Development*; and *Applying Past Lessons to PFAS and Other Emerging Challenges*. Also planned are a point-counterpoint on acceptable science, a mini session on social media, and a group problem-solving session. And sure to be a highlight are video presentations by ECOS members along with live voting for the 2018 State Program Innovation Awards (see next story).

ECOS members will hold closed sessions with U.S. EPA leadership to discuss Cooperative Federalism 2.0 progress and PFAS. In addition, the Cooperative Federalism Oversight Workgroups, Shale Gas Caucus, Federal Facilities Forum, Data Management Workgroup, Environmental Research Institute of the States, and Executive Committee will meet. Networking opportunities include an ice cream icebreaker, an ECOS anniversary trivia contest, a Taste of Vermont reception, and a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala & Awards Ceremony.



Register by **July 12** to receive the early bird registration rate, and reserve a hotel room without delay at Stowe Mountain Lodge!

See the draft agenda, registration, and hotel details [here](#). For agenda and sponsorship questions, contact [Lia Parisien](#) or [MC Murphy](#). For registration questions, contact [Sarah Grace Longworth](#) of ECOS. For hotel questions, contact [Megan Swanson](#) of ECOS. [Parisien]

## Reminder: ECOS Asks States to Submit an Innovation Videos by July 12

In honor of the 25th anniversary of ECOS, the association is changing up the process for selecting recipients of its annual State Program Innovation Awards bestowed at the Fall Meeting. This year's nominations will be presented via member video and selected through a live vote by all attendees.

ECOS hopes to receive one nomination video from each state. Each submission should contain: the name of your program; an overview of your innovative program or approach; and results to date. Be as creative with the video as you'd like. You are welcome to report from the field, add video feed and music or sound effects, and involve your staff.

We only ask that the ECOS member appear at least briefly on camera to describe the innovation, limit the video to between 90 seconds and two minutes, and submit just one video on one innovation. To ensure a video quality, shoot in HD (720p minimum) with a horizontal frame; use a tripod for stability; ensure clear lighting and high-quality audio; and avoid reading from a paper with your head tilted downward.

Please send your submission to [Nia Duke](#) of ECOS by **July 12** and contact her with any questions. Thanks in advance for your participation! [Parisien]

## ERIS, ORD Meet to Continue Cooperative Federalism Work

This week, ERIS Board members and ECOS Vice President Becky Keogh met with U.S. EPA Office of Research and Development (ORD) leadership and staff at EPA's lab in Gulf Breeze, Florida to discuss recent accomplishments and plan future work. ERIS and ORD have worked for several years to improve the two-way flow of information between states and EPA around science research. As identified in [\*Cooperative Federalism 2.0\*](#), EPA conducts important research that most states do not have the capacity to replicate or replace.

In response to ERIS requests on behalf of the states for a clearinghouse of ORD research products, ORD has redesigned their [\*Science Inventory\*](#). Based on a demonstration at this week's meeting, the ERIS Board is excited for states to use the new version of the Inventory.

Meeting attendees also discussed ongoing outreach by ORD to the states through efforts such as regional gatherings of states at ORD labs, monthly webinars, and including state scientists in ORD networking events. Gathering state research needs and getting them incorporated into EPA's research plans was another topic addressed. [Hanson]

## Check Out Last Week's Most-Read *ECOSWIRE* Story

Last week, ECOS staff were treated to a musical performance by Mike Morris of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's Air Quality Division. While the *Hamilton*-inspired rap on air regulation is not yet on YouTube, you can check out last week's [most-read article](#) to learn more. [Longworth]

---

## State News You Can Use

[Alabama Prepares for Annual Groundwater Conference](#)

---

[Pennsylvania Accepting Applications for First 'Driving PA Forward' Grants](#)

---

[West Virginia Governor Signs Executive Order on Permit Review](#)

---

[Wyoming Opens Carbon Capture Integrated Test Center](#)

---

**ITRC**

[Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council](#)

## ITRC Provides Trainings on Fractured Rock and Petroleum Vapor Intrusion

Last week, the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) partnered with the Missouri Waste Control Coalition to hold a one-day seminar on Characterization and Remediation of Fractured Rock. Close to 115 participants attended the Kansas City, MO training, bringing together stakeholders from across the country!

ITRC is also hosting a 2-day classroom training on Petroleum Vapor Intrusion: Fundamentals of Screening, Investigation, and Management in Seattle, Washington on **October 10 - 11**. Learn more and register here. [Olonoff]

---

## Career Opportunities

### New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) is hiring a Director for its Water Division. This individual is expected to lead the largest division of the DES by developing and advocating for public policy and regulatory objectives, providing oversight of planning and budgets, and representing DES at the state and federal levels. For a detailed description and information on how to apply, see here. [Longworth]

---

## Upcoming Events

## **ECOS Calls**

### **SMM Workgroup**

The next ECOS Sustainable Materials Management Workgroup call will take place on **May 29 at 3-4 p.m. Eastern**. The call will cover different perspectives on the regulation and beneficial use of coal combustion residuals.

An agenda with dial-in information will be sent prior to the call. For more information about the call or to join the workgroup, email [Connor MacCartney](#) of ECOS.

## **Webinars**

### **ECHO: How Do I Search For ... ??**

States are invited to join U.S. EPA for its next Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) webinar on **June 12 at 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Eastern**. This webinar will provide an overview of the data in ECHO and guide attendees through the site to answer environmental enforcement and compliance questions. The webinar will consist of short, step-by-step demonstrations geared toward both new and experienced users. [ECHO Facility Search](#) and other features will be demonstrated to answer questions such as:

- How do I search for a specific facility?
- How do I search for facilities in my community?
- How do I search for facilities releasing a pollutant?

Please [register](#) to attend the webinar. If you are unavailable at that time, it will be recorded and posted on the [ECHO Training page](#). For more information, contact [Rebecca Kane](#).  
[Graves]

### **Save the Date: HABs and PFAS Risk Communication Webinars**

ECOS and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) will host two webinars in June to highlight state-level risk communication of waterborne contaminants.

**June 14 at 2 p.m. Eastern:** Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) ([Register here](#))

**June 21 at 2 p.m. Eastern:** Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) ([Register here](#))

In early 2018, ECOS and ASTHO interviewed health and environmental agency staff from 13 states regarding their risk communication strategies and lessons learned for either PFAS contamination or HABs. Results were compiled into brief case studies that outline the states' overall efforts, risk communication efforts, relevant resources, key messages for the public, and challenges in the states' programs or communications. The webinars will provide key findings from the case studies and offer potential considerations to others seeking to implement or improve their risk communication practices. [Longworth]

## **U.S. EPA on Environmental Sampling and Analytical Methods**

U.S. EPA will host its monthly Tools and Resources Webinar on **June 20 at 3 - 4 p.m.**

**Eastern.** The topic is [Environmental Sampling and Analytical Methods](#) (ESAM), a suite of online tools that support the environmental characterization process for chemical, radiochemical, biotoxin, and pathogen contamination incidents. This webinar will highlight the functionality of ESAM's tools and include case studies and real world examples, including the recent ricin incident response in Colorado. To register, go [here](#). [Longworth]



**Visit ECOS.org**

*Copyright © 2018 Environmental Council of the States, All rights reserved. ECOSWIRE is a weekly service to ECOS members and alumni. No federal funds are spent on this newsletter. Permission is granted for our members to reproduce for state government purposes.*

**Our mailing address is:**

Environmental Council of the States  
50 F St NW Ste 350  
Washington, DC 20001-1770

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

